

Candidates for Board of Directors

President – Eileen Norman



Little People of America has always been more than an organization for me. It is a community, a home, and like many of us, a place where we feel truly seen. It is an honor to ask for your support as I continue for a second (and final) term as LPA's Board President.

Over the past three years, one of the most meaningful contributions I have been part of is leading the creation of LPA's Core Values. This was not simply an exercise in wordsmithing. It was a deliberate and thoughtful process of asking: *Who are we? What do we stand for? How do we want to show up for our members, for each other, and for the world?* Those values now serve as a guiding thread through everything we do: how we recruit members, how we frame our giving campaigns, how we make decisions, and how we speak with one another and with those outside our organization. I am proud of that work, and I believe it has given LPA a stronger foundation to build from.

Behind the scenes, I have also prioritized structural work that keeps an organization healthy and accountable. This has included updating bylaws, job descriptions, policies, our code of conduct, and member engagement tools. This work is rarely glamorous, but it can really matter. A well-run organization is one that can actually deliver on its promises to its members.

There are many challenges LPA faces that I hope to deliver on. Changes across American healthcare have created new uncertainties for our members and their families. Threats to services many members and people with dwarfism rely on require us to be engaged, informed, and ready to advocate. At the same time, the need for LPA to remain a safe and sacred space for community and friendship has never been greater. People need to know that when they become a member of this organization (whether physically at a conference or digitally through our networks) they belong here, exactly as they are.

I also believe deeply that LPA must be structurally and financially viable for generations to come. The families joining our community today deserve an organization that will still be strong and relevant when their children are grown. That means making thoughtful decisions now about how we operate, how we sustain ourselves, and how we grow.

My focus for the next 3 years will continue to be on alignment and momentum. I will continue working to bring together our Board of Directors, District Directors, and Committee Chairs around a shared mission and a unified vision — not uniformity of thought, but unity of purpose. When we are aligned, we are far more capable of moving forward together, even in the face of disagreement or difficulty.

I want every Little Person and every family that finds their way to LPA to feel genuinely welcomed. Not welcomed in a performative way, but welcomed in the way that says “there is a place for you here”. I also want LPA to be a place of self-discovery where members can learn, set goals, find mentors, and discover what is possible for their lives.

Leading this organization is not something I take lightly. It asks a great deal of time, energy, and thought. I bring all of those willingly because I believe in what LPA is and in what it can become. I have spent these past three years trying to lay a stronger foundation, and I am eager to keep building on it with you. Together, we can ensure that LPA remains a place of belonging, advocacy, and possibility for every LP and family who needs it, both now and for decades to come.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me and thank you to all of those who give back to this community every single day. Let's Go!!

Membership Director – April Brazier



My name is April Brazier, and I'm excited to run for the Membership Director position for Little People of America!

I believe I am the best person for this position because I believe in the power of connection, representation, and community that LPA has created in its nearly 70 years of history.

LPA is a constant source of support, advocacy, and belonging for so many individuals and families, and I am committed to strengthening and building on that foundation. I plan to ensure every member feels welcomed, valued, and empowered to be engaged in LPA. We are an organization built on both volunteers and active members, and I will work hard to enhance LPA membership.

I've been an active member in LPA for over 25 years, serving as a chapter president first, then district director, and finally was a former executive board vice president. Without strong membership, Little People of America wouldn't be the thriving organization it is today. It would be an honor for you to choose me to lead membership into the future.

As Membership Director, I will focus will be on improving outreach, providing more opportunities for communication with all our members. I want to help members feel included and encourage them to participate in any way they feel comfortable. I want to help LPA grow not only in numbers, but in unity—fostering an environment where new members feel immediately at home and long-time members feel continually supported.

Another primary focus of the Membership Director's duties is to oversee both developing new programs, as well as maintaining the many successful programs already a part of LPA. These programs address the concerns of our members and help ensure that LPA's initiatives remain relevant, responsive, and empowering. In addition, the Membership Director oversees the membership database, the staff, contractors, and volunteers that work with it. One of my first objectives is to get the membership database as current as possible so we can efficiently communicate with our members.

As Membership Director, I look forward to working with various committees: Membership, Parent, Young Adult, Teen, Older Adults, International, and Information Technology. I am a long-time volunteer in District 6, helping to organize regional medical clinics and other events. I've also had the opportunity to work with so many parents, which has given me a lot of insight into how to best involve them in LPA. I joined LPA as a young adult, which aligns well with working with those committees.

My full-time job is in information technology; I work as a senior clinical applications analyst for University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics. I have a passion for leveraging technology to help people whenever possible. While LPA has a strong Facebook presence, I know there are many more opportunities for us out there.

Membership Director – Rachel Keller



Hello everyone! I am writing to let you know that I am running for a second term of Membership Director! I am so thankful for the opportunity of being LPA's Membership Director for the past two and a half years. It has been one of the most satisfying and challenging experiences. I have so appreciated being part of such a dynamic team this past term, and I am really excited at the possibility of getting to continue this work.

The role of the Membership Director is inherently behind the scenes, it is not flashy or showy and requires a person who has integrity and is solid in their values. Since they are entrusted with handling much private information about our members, it should be someone that can be trusted with confidentiality and understands the nature of the seriousness of the task. In my professional life as a therapist, I am entrusted with information of this type daily. Transferring this responsibility to my Board position was not a challenge. I promise that if I am reelected I will continue to hold this responsibility seriously. Over the past two and a half years I have had many opportunities to listen, support, and resolve member's issues, both in person at conferences and meetings, and on the phone, and through email, and getting to resolution for all sides has been one of the most satisfying parts of the role.

An LPA Board member needs to be a team player, as this volunteer board is very much a "working board." I have really enjoyed collaborating with other Board members. One current project that Samantha Rayburn Trubyk and I have recently created is a bimonthly Board Huddle meeting, creating a space for Board members to brainstorm and share ideas together. We hope to foster a stronger team and new ideas with this model.

One of the main pieces that I knew I could bring to this position was my experience with mental health concerns. The mental health of our community is a challenge that we need to take seriously, and it has been a focus of the work that I have done. I started a webinar series called "Let's Talk About It", about various mental health topics including grief, body image, menopause, and others. I started an online men's group with Jack Santy, another social worker in our community, and a women's group, by member's request. These groups have reached over 200 participants, and I would like to expand these groups further in the next few years. Programming that can reach members who aren't able to attend in person events is so vital. If reelected I plan to keep mental health as a focus and a priority.

In addition to the work on mental health, I worked with our main office to streamline the membership processes, created a membership committee, and an incident form for representatives of the organization to use so we can track information about our members better and get to resolution faster. I recruited and appointed four new committee chairs in the Young Adult, OWLS, and Parent committees, who have brought new energy and programming to our members. Another part of the Membership Director role that I have worked on is how do we reintegrate our members back into our community after they have received disciplinary action, as this is an important part of strengthening our community, and I look forward to continuing that piece.

There is still work to be done in continuing to build this amazing community of 8,000 members and I am hoping you will re-elect me to continue this important work and serve another term as your Membership Director. Thank you!

Membership Director – Crystal Perry



Hello LPA Community! I'm announcing my intent to run for the role of Membership Director. I hope that my lifetime membership in LPA and career in legal advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities prove the I'm the right fit for the role.

I've been a member of LPA for my entire life - District 4 and then District 13 – same chapter. I've made it a priority to attend as many regionals as possible this spring to meet new families and catch up with old friends (our friendship is old – not us!) This summer, I look forward to attending my 23rd LPA Conference in New Orleans. You can see that LPA is a priority in my house.

My parents, Herb and Rachel Perry, were at the National Conference in Miami when the LPA Adoption Coordinator at the time shared the news that I was available for adoption. I joined them in middle Georgia where I lived until I left for college. I've called Atlanta home for my adult life.

I interned for Disability Rights Iowa in law school and found my career. After law school, I started working at the Georgia Advocacy Office and now I work for the National Disability Rights network (www.ndrn.org). Every day, I work with my team to provide technical assistance to advocates in the 57 states and territories. We monitor representative payees of Social Security beneficiaries to ensure that beneficiaries are not subject to financial exploitation, abuse, and neglect. My days are full of calls, emails, Teams meetings, case management oversight, database training, and on the best days, onsite training. At the protection and advocacy system in Georgia, I managed our case management database and I have significant experience with the current case management database my program uses. One of my roles is helping people to use the database, federal technology equipment, and maintain confidentiality rules. It is an ever-changing field where knowing how to direct people and identifying resources is critical. I grew up in a home where leadership in LPA was not an if, but when. My dad served in a leadership role in District 4. My mom was the Georgia chapter president for several years while I was growing up. I served as the Georgia chapter president in the early 2000s.

As chapter president, I loved to meet new families in Georgia! This was pre-internet so I went through the paper roster each month reaching out to members near where our monthly meeting would be. Growing up, when we were not attending or hosting an LPA meeting, we spent weekends with friends through LPA who are family now.

In 2005, we brought our daughter home from Russia after learning about her through the LPA Adoption program. My younger daughter was born in 2007 – also a little person. Now, that they are grown(ish), I have the bandwidth to be in a leadership role again.

I look forward to working with the Board to ensure that our programs are meeting the needs of lifetime, current, and future members. I feel qualified to work with the Parent, Teen, and Young Adult Committees. In June, I'll become an official member of the Owls, Older Wise Little people Committees. Also, I want to support LPA to become a more culturally competent organization as more people outside North America attend our events.

The first thing that I will do as Membership Director is learn what is working. Equally, if not more important, I want to know what we can do to improve the membership experience for the folks who are not part of our organization. I look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans!

Finance Director – Tanya Morato



Hello, my name is Tanya Morato. I am your current Finance Director and I am running for my second term.

I am second generation LP and LPA member. I grew up in Southern California. I now live in the San Francisco Bay Area with my husband, Jon, and our three kitties.

Finance Director has been my first LPA officer role and it has been a learning experience. I have been humbled and impressed seeing how much effort goes into running this organization. I am proud to be part of this board and looking forward to building on my experience over the next term. My goal is to continue supporting the LPA board, staff, and membership. I am also planning ahead now on how to leave this role well documented and organized to set up future Finance Directors for success.

Thank you.

Inclusion Director – Chloe Purcell



I consider it a great honor and privilege to have the opportunity to run for the office of Inclusion Director on the LPA Board of Directors. I believe this office represents a core value that is at the heart of LPA as an organization. That value is inclusivity. This organization was formed in the hope that we could make things better by helping all of us to come together. I believe it was formed to be a safe place for all of us. I believe it is one of the duties of the Inclusion Director to help make this a safe place for everyone included in our community. I also believe that this is a charge that is given to every member of LPA as well. The members of LPA make it what it is. We are to make this place better by showing love to all who come into our organization seeking acceptance. That is what draws people to LPA. It is the guarantee of social acceptance. During my lifetime, I have come to a realization that many in our population do not experience that in many other places. It is truly heartbreaking for me to hear stories of that nature. As someone who has seen that reality, I feel it is my duty as a member of this community to make things better here. If elected, I will do everything within my power to foster an inclusive environment within this organization. I feel that this position would give me an opportunity to help this organization become more of what it is meant to be. I will work hard by supporting policy that brings us together. I think that we've experienced enough rejection from the world around us to have that occur here. It is my promise that I will work to ensure that LPA is a safe place for all who are members of our community. I believe that anyone associated with the little person community has a place in it. I consider the LPA to be part of my family. It is my hope that I can work in this position to help everyone in our community to feel the same way that I do about it. It is my promise that if elected, I will do my best to help you feel safe and accepted as members of our organization. You are seen and accepted here. I consider all of you to be part of my family. It is my promise that I will do my best to reflect that perspective in the work I will produce in this position if elected. I have a deep love for this organization and the people in it. I promise to express that love with everything that I do both in the capacity of this office and outside of it. It is my guarantee that it will always be my goal to continually work to unify our organization and the people in it.